

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method to coordinate interconnected information storage and retrieval systems, wherein each of the information and storage systems is capable of communicating with one or more host computers, comprising the steps of:

providing a host computer;

providing a plurality of information storage and retrieval systems, wherein each of said plurality of information storage and retrieval systems is interconnected with each of the other information storage and retrieval systems, and wherein each of said plurality of information storage and retrieval systems is interconnected with said host computer; and wherein each of said information storage and retrieval systems is interconnected with a different remote storage location,

providing a plurality of controllers, wherein each of said plurality of controllers comprises logic enabling that controller to function as a master controller, or as a target controller, or as both a master and a target controller, wherein two of said plurality of controllers are disposed in each of said plurality of information storage and retrieval systems;

designating by said host computer one of said plurality of controllers as a master controller and the remaining controllers as target controllers;

generating one or more master controller commands by said master controller;

providing said one or more master controller commands to each of said target

controllers, wherein said one or more master controller commands cause said target controllers to adjust the flow of data into and out of each of said one or more information storage and retrieval systems.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing by said master controller to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to stop accepting write operations from said one or more host computers.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing by said master controller to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to form one or more consistency groups.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein each of said information storage and retrieval systems is capable of providing information to a different remote storage locations, further comprising the step of providing by said master controller to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to stop providing data to said remote storage locations.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
providing a host computer policy command to said master controller; and  
providing at a first time by said master controller to each target controller one or more first master controller commands; and  
providing at a second time by said master controller to each target controller one or more second master controller commands.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing status

information to said master controller by each target controller.

7. (currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer readable medium having computer readable program code disposed therein to coordinate controllers disposed in a plurality of interconnected information storage and retrieval systems, wherein each controller comprises logic enabling that controller to function as a master controller, or as a target controller, or as both a master and a target controller, wherein each of the multiple information and storage systems is interconnected with the same host computer, and wherein each of said information storage and retrieval systems is interconnected with a different remote storage location, and wherein each of said plurality of information storage and retrieval systems comprises two controllers, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving from said host computer a designation as a master controller and a designation that the remaining controllers comprise target controllers;

generating one or more master controller commands;

providing said one or more master controller commands to each of said target controllers, wherein said one or more master controller commands cause said target controllers to adjust the flow of data into and out of each of said one or more information storage and retrieval systems.

8. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 7, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect providing to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to stop accepting write operations from said one or more host computers.

9. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 7, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect providing to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to form one or more consistency groups.

10. (previously presented) The article of manufacture of claim 7, wherein each information storage and retrieval system is interconnected with a different remote storage location, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect providing to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to stop providing data to said remote storage locations.

11. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 7, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a host computer policy command;

providing at a first time to each target controller one or more first master controller commands; and

providing at a second time to each target controller one or more second master controller commands.

12. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 7, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect receiving status information from each target controller.

13. (currently amended) A computer program product embodied in a computer readable medium, said computer program product being usable with a programmable computer

processor to coordinate a plurality of controllers disposed in a plurality of interconnected information storage and retrieval systems, wherein each of said plurality of controllers comprises logic enabling that controller to function as a master controller, or as a target controller, or as both a master and a target controller, wherein each of the plurality of information and storage systems is interconnected with the same host computer, and wherein each of the plurality of information storage and retrieval systems is interconnected with a different remote storage location, and wherein each of said plurality of information storage and retrieval systems comprises two controllers, comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to receive from said host computer a designation as a master controller and a designation that the remaining controllers comprise target controllers;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to generate one or more master controller commands;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to provide said one or more master controller commands to each of said target controllers, wherein said one or more master controller commands cause said target controllers to adjust the flow of data into and out of each of said one or more information storage and retrieval systems.

14. (original) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to provide to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to stop accepting write operations from said one or more host computers.

15. (original) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising computer

readable program code which causes said programmable computer to provide to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to form one or more consistency groups.

16. (previously presented) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein each of said information storage and retrieval systems is capable of sending information a different remote storage location, further comprising computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to provide to each of said target controllers one or more master controller commands causing each of said target controllers to stop sending data to said remote storage locations.

17. (original) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising:  
computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to receive a designation as a master controller;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to receive a host computer policy command;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to provide at a first time to each of the target controllers one or more first master controller commands;  
and

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to provide at a second time to each of the target controllers one or more second master controller commands.

18. (original) The computer program product of claim 13, further comprising computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer to receive status information

from each of said target controllers.

19. Canceled.

20. Canceled.

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